Mr. Speaker, even after losing 3,200 American

lives and spending billions of taxpayer dollars since declaring

``Mission Accomplished'' 4 years ago, the Bush administration continues

to demand an open-ended commitment of American troops in Iraq.

Yesterday President Bush refused to change the course when he vetoed a

bill that was supported by Congress, retired military generals and the

American people.

This Democratic Congress put forth a plan for a responsible end to

the war consistent with our national security needs.

Even Secretary of Defense Gates himself reiterated last month that

congressional debate was helpful. He delivered the message to the Iraqi

Government that the clock is ticking on U.S. operations there.

President Bush's veto yesterday lets the Iraqi Government off the hook

and shows the President plans to keep our troops there indefinitely.

Mr. Speaker, the days of rubber-stamping the President's war

proposals are long over. The President is going to have to learn to

work with the Democratic leadership on this Congress so that we can

find a way out of Iraq soon, and so we can provide our troops with the

resources they need.